

RFC Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Name	Email	Organization	Comments
09/12/2019 03:02 PM	Rev. William Garrard	pastorgarrard@hotmail.com		<p>Can you comply with the spirit and the letter of the court order? I and the rest of the citizens of our state are watching and hoping that an open fair process will occur and we will soon have districts that do not give any partisan advantage.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
09/12/2019 03:29 PM	Samuel Wigginton			<p>I would like to see as many Democrats double-bunked if not triple bunked. I want choices of experienced Democratic legislators to represent North Carolinians. They are also the one who claim incumbency should not be a consideration, so I can't imagine them opposing this suggestion.</p>
09/12/2019 03:53 PM	Debra Ireland	dlsiegel@hotmail.com		<p>I don't think any member of the current—or future—NC General Assembly should be involved in redistricting efforts. So many current members were elected under illegal maps and their involvement should absolutely not be allowed.</p> <p>Use an independent body to create fair districts that don't favor either party. That is the only way to bring our state back to a representative democracy where candidates must appeal to all citizens, not just their niche.</p> <p>No legislator should be able to choose which neighborhoods they want in their own district, as is currently happening as I type. This methodology is completely absurd and an insult to democracy and the citizens of North Carolina.</p> <p>Representatives should NOT be allowed to choose their voters!</p>
09/12/2019 03:53 PM	Nat Johnson	nathania.johnson@gmail.com		<p>Grow a conscience and make maps fair. As long as you have gerrymandered maps, you are cheaters. You can never say that you've earned it or that you are a public servant. Not when you steal democracy from people. And since so many of you say you are Christians, know that when you cheat you are not Christlike. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you wouldn't want unfair maps forced upon you, then don't force them upon others.</p>
09/12/2019 04:55 PM	Mr. Mel Sage	hstms@nc.rr.com	Tax Payer	<p>You do not get to choose your voters. Equal vote opportunity for everyone. You are rapidly turning everyone against your party. WE WILL NOT FORGET.....!!!</p>
09/12/2019 06:05 PM	Dr. Robert Belknap	rebelknap@sms.edu		<p>Shameful actions reflect shameful character. To cheat to win means you actually care little about governance. Imagine if every institution behaved as brazenly corruptly as Speaker Moore and the Republican legislature. You are just furthering the degradation of modern American living. You know it, and you don't care.</p>
09/13/2019 12:27 AM	Jim P			<p>Does district 9 look "reasonably" compact? No - because the House redistricting committee used a set of maps that afford incumbent protections to a district occupied by Congressman-elect Murphy. The court said incumbent protections</p>

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				could be considered. The downside is that these protections inherit elements of past elections that were determined under a stacked deck. Why pass on elements of a gerrymandered system into a district with an outgoing representative? He is leaving! Is tainting the redistricting process for the sake of an unnecessary incumbent protection really worth it? You can't "double bunk" with someone who is heading to D.C... Smells fishy.
09/13/2019 09:06 AM	Aylett Colston	aylettcolston@gmail.com		<p>Sept. 13, 2019</p> <p>Dear Members of the Redistricting Committee,</p> <p>I write to you to make sure that you understand the difference between a court admitting an item into evidence, and a court approving an item for future use for a specific purpose.</p> <p>I have become increasingly alarmed listening to North Carolina lawmakers making statements like, "the court blessed the maps" prepared by Dr. Chen, and "the Court ruled that Dr. Chans maps met all federal and state requirements" for fair maps.</p> <p>These statements are not accurate. I hope these misstatements stem from a misunderstanding, as opposed to intentional obfuscation.</p> <p>Generally, a court will admit evidence if it is material and relevant to one of the substantive issues in the case, and if that evidence does not violate an exclusionary rule (i.e. hearsay, etc.).</p> <p>Evidence is relevant if it tends to prove or disapprove a material issue at trial. For example, a bloody knife found by law enforcement at the scene of a murder that had the defendant's fingerprints on it, would be relevant to determining whether or not the defendant committed murder.</p> <p>Evidence presented at trial by an expert witness, like Dr. Chen, has specific requirements. An expert witness does not testify about matters that he or she personally witnessed, but rather an expert witness provides opinion testimony.</p> <p>An expert's opinion testimony is required to have a reasonable probability and it must be supported by a factual basis. Dr. Chen was an expert witness in the trial, and generating multiple maps was part of the factual basis for establishing the reasonable probability of his opinion.</p> <p>When a court accepts something into evidence, it just means that court the offered evidence to be relevant and material to an issue at trial, and that the evidence does not violate an exclusionary rule. It does not mean that the court</p>

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				<p>has “approved” that item for future use. For example, a knife entered into evidence in a murder trial would not be “court approved” for use in stabbing for their victims. This may seem a dramatic example, but I want to make sure the matter is clear to you.</p> <p>Dr. Chen’s maps being entered into evidence at a trial does not mean they the maps were approved by the court for future use for a specific purpose.</p> <p>I hope that you will take this distinction to heart, and not continue to repeat statements that are misleading. It is important that the people of North Carolina be able to trust their lawmakers.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>L. Aylett Colston, JD Raleigh, NC</p>
09/13/2019 10:30 AM	CEO Benjamin Brodey	BB@TeleSage.Com		<p>I would like to see NC adopt a politically neutral formulaic algorithm, ideally one that could be used to make adjustments in the future as well. I would like to see an algorithm selected that could be applied anywhere in the US. I believe that several algorithms have been developed that are as politically neutral as possible. Some minor adjustment for rivers etc. might be needed, but they would truly be minor. An algorithm based redistricting plan would likely have flaws, but fewer in either direction than any developed by any partisan legislature.</p> <p>Best wishes,</p> <p>Benjamin</p>
09/13/2019 10:36 AM	Emily Kader	emily.l.kader@gmail.com		<p>The districts need to be remapped to ensure fair elections and bolster the democratic process in North Carolina. I don't think they should be drawn to favor either party or to place specific types of voters together into single districts, or intentionally to break up blocks of voters who live in concentrated areas. I would love to see an independent body draw the maps based on geography, county lines, or other limiters that are not determined by political allegiances.</p>
09/13/2019 10:53 AM	Ms Martha Brock	m.c.brock1116@gmail.com		<p>I want to know more after reading N&O article in Subday's paper about The Fair Act. I oppose any redistricting reform that does not include prohibition of designed districts to protect incumbent members.</p> <p>While I am a Democrat by registration, Democrats who put their own re-election as a higher priority than the good of those who elected them do not deserve my support. As Rep. Pricey Harrison put it, "HB 140 is not the way to go."</p>

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09/13/2019 10:53 AM	Lynn Webster	lynnwebster419@gmail.com	NA	All I can say is that it is high time that NC's districting maps finally represent accurate, fair voter maps that allow for a true democratic voting process. So sick of the political gerrymandering, waste of tax payer dollars on court fights and the galling arrogance of legislators who stoop to the lowest tactics to ensure re-election. My confidence in government is at an all time low. Sad when we should be a beacon of democratic principals and processes. The people of this state should be able to elect their representatives through a just process.
09/13/2019 11:01 AM	Clark Hunsinger	hunsingr@nc.rr.com		Rep Hall's comments about how hard it is to make the changes because of encumbrance is an example of why Representatives and the staff should not be the "map makers". The role of the Committee members should be to establish the goals and the specific priorities and criteria for the redistricting. You should have the n, with the Court's approval, contracted with Dr Chen to make his computer run generating the map that best matches that criteria with the current encumbrance data included (not doing the random selection of a less than best). Having politicians making changes to the maps themselves opens the process to fears of partisan gerrymandering.
09/13/2019 11:02 AM	Mr. Robert Ligon	religon@hotmail.com		The maps used for redistricting should not reflect incumbency. Chen's maps without incumbency concerns are the most democratic. NC has suffered long enough not adhering to the democratic principle of one man, one vote. Including incumbency will prolong the poor representation that North Carolinians have been suffered under. (If the legislature does not understand the math and political science, they should call upon Chen's services to assist in getting the most just solution.)
09/13/2019 11:06 AM	Ms Janet Blanchard	janet.blanchard@me.com		I am very disappointed we were not given advance notice of our right to speak about the redistricting process or result. I live 4 hours from Raleigh, and was not informed (via Tweets, for goodness sakes) until this morning that we could speak, THIS MORNING. Absent teleportation, I did not have the opportunity to do so. I am still looking for copies of the revised maps. I sincerely wish Republicans would work with citizenry to have fair elections. I guess that's too much to ask.
09/13/2019 11:11 AM	Ken Warner	kjwarner@gmail.com		The public already has evidence of intentional gerrymandering within this process. Public trust is extremely low and this body must do everything it can to demonstrate to North Carolinians that the results of this will be a fair representation of public voting intent and free from corruption.
09/13/2019 11:17 AM	Dr Donell Kerns	donellkerns@gmail.com		Please stop allowing the Republican Party (or any party) to disenfranchise people of color. The Republican Party has gerrymandered the state so completely that they have destroyed Democracy.
09/13/2019 11:24 AM	Mr. Pat Riley	patriley23@gmail.com	Citizen	Fairness, how hard can that be? Dem/Repub just be fair. I'm tired of my vote not counting. Make races competitive instead of givens. If this isn't corrected say

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09/13/2019 12:00 PM	Mr John van Arnold	vanarnold@mindspring.com		<p>good-bye to democracy. PatRileyAuthor.com</p> <p>One of the most important actions of the legislature is to ensure at the citizens have a direct voice in the running of state government through the election process. Because of that critical duty it is extremely important that legislative districts are drawn without regard to race, or party. Legislative districts should be compact, avoid dividing counties or cities for other political entities which should have a common interest with regard to state affairs.</p> <p>The issues with the legislative districts drawn by the Republican legislature has to do with gaining political advantage rather than representing the citizens needs. The advent of digital information with respect to the party affiliation, income location has made it possible to use computers to test a variety of district maps and pick the ones that favor your political interest. This is not the mission of drawing fair legislative districts, it is to group citizens who buy their residential location will have common needs, such as access to clean water safe transportation, good schools, adequate healthcare for which the state can address.</p> <p>Going forward the best way for this to occur is to haven't nonpartisan commission set up to draw at our legislative districts and congressional districts</p>
09/13/2019 12:03 PM	Dr. Charles Brown	drcharlie@me.com	Private citizen	<p>In my opinion, the GOP leadership has not followed the process mandated by the recent court ruling and thus have demonstrated that a Special Master should take over the process. Specifically, "the Court will prohibit Legislative Defendants and their agents from undertaking any steps to draw or revise the new districts outside of public view" (p. 350). The GOP committee members made questionable changes to the Columbus-Pender-Robeson cluster and refused to explain or allow discussion of the justification of the changes. Clearly the GOP members had devised these changes outside the view of the public and Democratic legislators. Furthermore, the GOP committee leadership failed to meet the mandate of conducting the process in "full public view" by impeding public comment. Notification of the opportunity for public comment before the committee was given the morning of the the comment period, and the proposed revised map was not available for review until approximate one hour prior to that notification. The GOP committee members have not honored the spirit of transparency, public input and serving NC citizens, as evidenced by comments by Rep. Brenden Jones (R) saying that "unless people were living under a rock..., they knew about the redistricting process and public comment opportunities" (reported by Melissa Boughton).</p>
09/13/2019 12:12 PM	Ms. Betty Rider	bettyrider@me.com	Carolina Jews for Justice	<p>My major concerns:</p> <p>1.The bill proposes a significant amendment to the state constitution. While a change to the constitution might make sense at some point, under no</p>

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				<p>circumstances should North Carolina follow last year's disastrous path of ramming through such an amendment at the end of a long legislative session.</p> <p>2. The state can adopt a fair and transparent redistricting process right away merely by passing a statutory change.</p> <p>3. The proposal says that the General Assembly "may" authorize a redistricting commission to draw congressional and legislative maps, but it can already do this now. This requirement should be mandatory and its inclusion in this bill is meaningless and deceptive.</p> <p>4. Assuming the General Assembly does not hand the process off to an independent commission (something that would appear to be a safe assumption), House Bill 140 vests the power for drawing maps with unelected legislative staff who will report to the state Legislative Services Office. That office is headed by longtime Pope ally and fierce, far-right partisan, former Raleigh mayor Paul Coble.</p> <p>5. There is no transparency in the map drawing process. Legislative staff would draw new maps behind closed doors and present them to the General Assembly, which would then have to vote them up or down.</p> <p>6..Although the bill calls for the appointment of a "Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission," the commission has a limited list of mostly ministerial duties. What's more, there is no procedure laid out for how the members of the group will be named.</p> <p>7. The bill only requires three public hearings after the maps are drawn and before they go to the General Assembly. No public involvement of any kind is required before the maps are drawn.</p> <p>8. Rather remarkably, and in an apparent conflict with public records laws, the temporary commission gets to decide which of the materials used to draw the maps, and which of the materials submitted to it, shall be made public.</p> <p>9. The bill spells out a perplexing process in which the secretly-crafted bill is to be voted on within three days of being delivered by the temporary commission to the General Assembly, even though the commission is not required to report on the substance of the public hearings that take place until 14 days after the bill is delivered to lawmakers.</p>
09/13/2019 12:14 PM	Donald Ball	donald.ball@gmail.com		Using incumbency as a criteria continues to reward Republicans for their crime against democracy. Failing to give citizens any meaningful input into this latest court mandated redistricting underscores the contempt with which the Republicans hold us.
09/13/2019 12:22 PM	Andrea Bale			Please take this seriously. It appears to me you are making these maps even more gerrymandered if that is even possible. We've had enough!!! Make them fair for all. What is so hard about that concept? Using random ways to draw lines is not the answer.
09/13/2019 12:45 PM	Mr. William	whollar@aol.com	self	Public Comment time has been absurdly short ! >:-/

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09/13/2019 12:47 PM	Rachel Lichte	rlichte@gmail.com		#NCGA House Redistricting Committee is not conducting an open or unbiased process. This plan exacerbates partisan gerrymandering and the public has not been able to effectively weigh in. Such actions comes across as blatant disdain for democratic values. The courts need to step in!
09/13/2019 01:27 PM	Anne Brown	Nsbc@nc.rr.com		Gerrymandering has gone on too long, and both parties are guilty. Political will and energy have been squandered grappling with this issue while the electorate is left feeling powerless. I am so relieved that we will be getting fair and responsible representation with the new maps. Thank you for your hard work.
09/13/2019 01:43 PM	Ms Michelle Johncock	Michelle_johncock@hotmail.com	Private citizen	I request a public posting of all potential maps so that we can have some time to consider their implications. We haven't had enough time to analyze the ones under consideration & it's difficult for many of us to make it to Raleigh on short notice. Thank you.
09/13/2019 02:17 PM	Giovanni Spillman	gvspillman@gmail.com		I think the redistricting seems very partisan and it mainly helps Democrats. For example, District 76 on the proposed map shrinks Warren's district and makes it more a democratic area due to Salisbury. This map also hurts people who are running for office and have already filed to run for office.